

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2022

Mr. Randy Moore
Chief
United States Forest Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Moore:

We write to provide input ahead of your forthcoming “Letter of Intent for Wildland Fire” for the 2022 wildfire season. As you know, wildfires on National Forest System (NFS) lands continue to decimate valuable natural resources, damage and destroy public and private property, and wreak havoc on entire towns while devastating local economies. The current wildfire situation demands our most immediate and serious attention.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider and prioritize the following recommendations as you develop your Letter of Intent for the 2022 wildfire season:

1. Aggressive initial attack of all unplanned wildfires, with the goal of containing wildfires while small and suppressing them within 24 hours of initial detection.
2. An end to the policy of monitoring wildfires and letting fires burn for resource management objectives (e.g., “managed” wildfires).
3. Full utilization of all available firefighting resources, including aerial and night-capable aerial resources, smokejumpers, hotshots, as well as state and local resources.

The severity of recent western wildfire seasons, evidenced in 2021 by the Caldor, Dixie, and Tamarack Fires, among others, demands a shift in Forest Service policy. While we strongly encourage you to include these recommendations in your forthcoming Letter of Intent, we also understand the need to drastically remediate the neglected state of our forests. We look forward to working with you to reduce wildfire risk on NFS lands through active forest management.

We have spoken with firefighters, foresters, and other resource specialists – both retired Forest Service personnel and private individuals – about possible solutions and many have pointed us to the enclosed document entitled, *Lack of Forest Maintenance Resulting in Destructive Wildfires*, also known as the *Call to Action*. We support the intent of the *Call to Action* to create a focused effort to reduce catastrophic wildfires and encourage you to consider its recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you more closely as the upcoming wildfire season approaches.

Sincerely,



Tom McClintock



Doug LaMalfa

CC: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture
Dr. Homer Wilkes, Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment

Enclosure: *Call to Action*